

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A process for producing carbamazepine, which comprises reacting iminostilbene with an alkali cyanate in an aqueous acetic acid solution or an alcoholic acetic acid solution, and recovering the resulting carbamazepine, wherein the aqueous acetic acid solution contains up to about 20% water.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9 wherein iminostilbene reacts with the alkali cyanate in the absence of a strong acid.

12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9 wherein the alcoholic acetic acid solution contains up to about 10% alcohol.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A process for producing carbamazepine, comprising the steps of:
reacting iminostilbene with an alkali cyanate in an aqueous acetic acid mixture, wherein said aqueous acetic acid mixture comprises acetic acid and up to about 5% to about 20% by weight of water; and
recovering the resulting carbamazepine.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 14, wherein said aqueous acetic acid mixture contains from about 5% to about 10% by weight of water.

17. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 14, wherein said alkali cyanate is sodium cyanate or potassium cyanate
18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 14, wherein said reacting step is carried out within a temperature range of from about 20°C to about 100°C.
19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 14, wherein in said reacting step, said alkali cyanate is gradually added to a suspension of iminostilbene in said aqueous acetic acid mixture.
20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 19, wherein said alkali cyanate is added as a solid material.
21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 19, wherein said alkali cyanate is added in the form of an aqueous solution.
22. (Previously Presented) A process for producing carbamazepine, comprising the steps of:
reacting iminostilbene with an alkali cyanate in an alcoholic acetic acid mixture; and
recovering the resulting carbamazepine.
23. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 22, wherein said alcoholic acetic acid mixture contains up to about 10% by weight of alcohol.
24. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 23, wherein said alcohol is methanol or ethanol.
25. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 22, wherein said alkali cyanate is sodium cyanate or potassium cyanate.
26. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 22, wherein said reacting step is carried out within a temperature range of from about 20°C to about 100°C.

27. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 22, wherein in said reacting step, said alkali cyanate is gradually added to a suspension of iminostilbene in said alcoholic acetic acid mixture.

28. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 27, wherein said alkali cyanate is added as a solid material.

29. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 27, wherein said alkali cyanate is added in the form of an aqueous solution.